Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com

JANUARY 2005

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING
Jan. 12, 2005

Eight members attended, including David Vadnais, a new face, and Dave Jarvie, whom we hadn't seen in a while.

Minutes of the Dec. 8, 2004, meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Dave Mathis reported a total of $13,617.22 in the chapter bank accounts. The report was approved.

Jon Pintello will now deposit receipts from rip-off tickets sold at Tomasi's bar in Fair Haven into Charter 1 Bank, allowing us to close the Chittenden Bank account that was producing service charges for lack of use.

So far, 12 people have sent in money for the 25th Anniversary Banquet on April 16. As of Feb. 1, persons not members of Chapter One may secure tickets as long as space remains. See the attached form for prices.

Member Mike Brown, currently serving in the military and unable to attend the banquet, has graciously agreed to donate four tickets for veterans and spouses to attend the banquet. If because of financial hardship you wish to secure a complimentary ticket or tickets, please send us a note.

Jack Crowther will prepare a press release inviting non-members of Chapter 1and other vets and the public to the 25th Anniversary Banquet on a first-come, first-served, basis. Jack will also prepare a letter inviting members of other Vietnam Veterans of America chapters in Vermont to attend the banquet.

President Andy Megrath displayed swatches of the embroidery that will go on the commemorative hats and knit shirts being sold in connection with the chapter's 25th anniversary. Orders can be placed by sending the form at the end of this newsletter. The embroidery designs will be placed on the Web site (www.vvachapter1.com) for viewing.

Andy reported on his efforts to compile a list of charter members of Chapter One. They will be special guests of the chapter at the banquet. Conversations with early members of Chapter 1 has produced a list we believe is complete. If any member has a list, however, Andy would appreciate hearing from you at the address shown on this newsletter. We are also trying to compile a list of Chapter One presidents, the chief uncertainty being the periods of tenure of our leaders between 1980 and 1991. Again, any help from members able to fill in the gaps for us would be appreciated.

We again discussed qualifications for inclusion on the Rutland County Vietnam War Memorial in Rutland. Those serving outside of Vietnam but participating in operations of the war need to have received the Vietnam Service Medal to be included.

The so-called "Moving Wall," a traveling replica of the Vietnam War memorial ("The Wall") in Washington, D.C., is coming to Bennington July 26-31, with an opening ceremony the evening of July 26 and a closing ceremony on the 31st. Andy Megrath will check on whether the Bennington chapter of VVA would like a donation.

After discussion, Jack Crowther moved that the chapter make the following donations: $200 to the Vermont Military Family Assistance Fund, a private non-profit organization established to meet the emergency needs of the families of mobilized active duty service members; $200 to Operation Kindness, located at the Vermont Army National Guard Family Readiness Office at Camp Johnson in Vermont, which supports the needs of families with deployed service members; and $50 to the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation Inc. of Washington, D.C., formerly the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, to support the ongoing work of that group. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Andy Megrath will try to invite to our next meeting the local contact for National Guard troops from the area who have been called up and are serving. The invitation will be made with an eye to the chapter providing support that may be needed.

VVA Chapter 753 in St. Albans is offering a $1,000 scholarship to a relative of an honorably discharged Vietnam era veteran as the prize in an essay contest. Both the veteran and the applicant must be Vermont residents. Further information and an application may be had by writing the St. Albans chapter at P.O. Box 965, St. Albans, Vt. 05478 or e-mailing vvasec@aol.com. Deadline for entries is Feb. 15.

The Boys & Girls Club of Rutland County presented the chapter with a certificate for past sponsorhip of the group and invited the chapter to hold a meeting in its facility in downtown Rutland.

Next meeting is Wednesday, Feb. 9, at 6 p.m. at the chapter office at the VFW in Rutland.

REPORT OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET PLANNING COMMITTEE
Jan. 12, 2005

Andy Megrath, Fred Hellmuth and Jack Crowther met to continue planning for the April 16 VVA Chapter 1 25th Anniversary Banquet.

Fred suggested that the military memorabilia items the chapter has be offered at low prices. The goal is to clear out the items, since the chapter no longer is involved in the sale of these products.

In addition to the "leftover" memorabilia items the commemorative items listed below will be sold at and in advance of the banquet. Only a limited number of items will be purchased beyond those preordered. To be sure of having a shirt or hat by the day of the banquet, please order in advance using the form below.

GREEN KNIT SHIRT — Stain-resistant Hanes shirt with embroidered Chapter 1 logo with "25th Anniversary" above the logo and "April 13, 1980 - 2005" below. See form below for pre-ordering.

GREEN BASEBALL HAT — Adjustable cap has the following embroidery: "Vietnam Veterans — Of America — Chapter 1 — 1980 2005 — 25th Anniversary."

As mentioned in the December newsletter, we will update the Honor Roll at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Rutland and plan to have the new plaque ready at the anniversary banquet. Deadline for submitting a DD 214 for inclusion on the memorial is Feb. 15.

To retain control over attendance (space is limited to 185-190) at the banquet, members and one guest each have exclusive rights to reserve tickets until the end of January. **Members are encouraged to respond promptly, as we expect considerable interest in this event from other veterans and the public.** Beginning Feb. 1, attendance will be opened up to other veterans and interested members of the public.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will take place following the next regular chapter meeting on Feb. 9.

Clip and Mail

RESERVATION FORM FOR 25TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET — SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2005
The Palms Restaurant, 36 Strongs Ave., Rutland

PRICES: Member and one guest, $10 each; non-member veteran and one guest, $15 per person; general public & additional guests, $20 per person. Charter members of Chapter 1 and special guests are free.

NAME _____ Chapter 1 Member ___ Non-Member Vet ___General Public ___

Cost based on above: SELF ___ ONE GUEST ___ ADDITIONAL GUESTS ___ TOTAL: $_____

COMMEMORATIVE SHIRT _____ SHIRTS @ $20 per shirt. Please specify sizes (S, M, L, XL, XXL)
Your shirt will be available AT THE BANQUET. Please add $5 per shirt to have your order shipped to you.

COMMEMORATIVE BASEBALL HAT _____ HATS @ $8 per hat. One size fits all. Your hat will be available AT THE BANQUET. Please add $4 per hat to have your order shipped to you.

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

PLEASE ENCLOSE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

PLEASE MAIL ORDER TO: VVA Chapter 1, Attn. Anniversary Banquet, 15 Wales St., Rutland, Vt. 05701

VVA Chapter 1
15 Wales St.
Rutland, VT 05701-4026

Address Correction Requested

1/05

Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com

FEBRUARY 2005

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING
Feb. 9, 2005

Eight members attended.

A moment of silence was observed for Kenneth Hollman of Center Rutland, a Chapter 1 member who passed away in January.

Minutes of the Jan. 12, meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Dave Mathis reported a total of $13,651.25 in the chapter bank accounts, although he had not yet received the bank's monthly statement. The Chittenden Bank account has been closed, meaning all chapter funds are now in the two Charter One accounts. The report was approved.

Joe Lynch is our latest life member. New members include Bruce Pratico of Rutland and Maurice Burden of Tinmouth.

President Andy Megrath circulated a Vermont House of Representatives resolution congratulating the chapter on its 25th anniversary this coming April 13. We're not sure who got the resolution started but think it may have been Rep. Michael Obuchowski of Bellows Falls, the former House speaker. Chapter 1 member David Potter of North Clarendon was among the signers. In any case, we're grateful for the recognition.

Those attending voiced no objections to some proposed changes to the national VVA constitution.

Dick Doyle pointed out that a charter member of Chapter 1, Mark Truhan, is currently on duty in Iraq. A lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve, Truhan is involved in training Iraqi officers. Dick reported current membership at 124.

Sixteen shirts and 16 hats have been ordered in connection with the 25th anniversary. The chapter will make a few dollars on these items.

Heather Hinckley spoke to us about her role as Family Readiness volunteer for the National Guard members deployed from Rutland's 2nd Battalion, 172nd Armor. She also represents the Guard's Family Assistance Center, offering help to any veterans in need. In these positions, she fields requests for assistance from families of deployed soldiers, and from veterans generally. She in turn can seek assistance from other individuals or organizations, including the Adopt-A-Family group started locally by Bill Bullock. Heather's husband is Sgt. Howard Hinckley, a 15-year guardsman currently on duty with the 2nd Battalion, 172nd Armor in the Mideast.

We encouraged Heather to consider the chapter a resource to tap when she has a need to fulfill.

Fred Hellmuth moved that the chapter appropriate $500 for dispersal to assist families of deployed service people in need, the fund to be replenished, if members agree, by motion at a subsequent meeting. Dispersal of the money will take place upon approval of the president and one other officer or, in the absence of the president, the vice president and one other officer. Seconded by Bill Whitney. Approved unanimously.

Donations approved in January for the Vermont Military Family Assistance Fund and Operation Kindness have been held up pending our finding out the difference in the organizations, which both have the same address at Camp Johnson in Vermont. Heather Hinckley will find out the difference between the two groups.

The chapter approved a design for new stationery.

Bub Crosby moved that Andy Megrath investigate getting a credit card for the chapter to reduce check writing and make routine month-to-month expenditures more convenient. Seconded by Fred Hellmuth. Passed unanimously.

We believe we have pinned down the list of VVA presidents and their terms of service and plan to prepare a plaque honoring their service.

We have made contact with Bobby Muller, founder of the national VVA organization and are hoping to have him attend the April 16 Anniversary Banquet.

Rutland Living History Days will take place April 30 in Main Street Park, featuring encampments representing the French and Indian, Revolutionary, and Civil wars.

Note: Election of officers is scheduled for April. Anyone interested in serving as an officer or on the board should make their wishes known. Write the chapter or contact Andy Megrath at vthogman@adelphia.net or (802) 775-1745.

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 9, at 6 p.m. at the chapter office at the VFW in Rutland.

REPORT OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET PLANNING COMMITTEE
Feb. 9, 2005

Andy Megrath, Fred Hellmuth, Bill Whitney, Dick Doyle, Bub Crosby and Jack Crowther met to continue planning for the April 6 VVA Chapter 1 25th Anniversary Banquet.

Approximately 30 area veterans have submitted the necessary paperwork to have their names added to the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Honor Roll in Rutland. The revised honor roll will be presented at the banquet and installed afterward.

We are still waiting to hear from most of the special guests, including the governor and the mayor. Others, like Sen. Jeffords and Lt. Gov. Dubie have responded but are not yet able to commit. National VVA President Thomas Corey is expected to attend.

We will order eight shirts and hats and 30 patches with the same "anniversary logo" as the shirt, to be sold at the banquet. Most items will have been preordered.

We will secure nametags for people to wear at the banquet. There will be a printed program; Jack Crowther volunteered to work on it. Bub Crosby will offer an invocation and benediction. Dick will see if John Miner has a national VVA flag we can borrow for the event. Larry Young will try to get some disposable cameras to enlist attendees in recording the banquet on film.

The following products will be available for preorder, with a limited number available at the banquet. In addition, anniversary logo patches will be on sale at the banquet. Aside from preorders, only eight shirts and hats will be purchased for sale or presentation. Logos for the shirt and hat are visible on our Web site, www.vvachapter1.com.

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GREEN BASEBALL HAT — Adjustable cap has the following embroidery: "Vietnam Veterans — Of America — Chapter 1 — 1980 2005 — 25th Anniversary."

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will take place following the next regular chapter meeting on March 9.

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Clip and Mail

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SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2005
The Palms Restaurant, 36 Strongs Ave., Rutland, 6 p.m.

PRICES: Member and one guest, $10 each; non-member veteran and one guest, $15 per person; general public & additional guests, $20 per person. Charter members of Chapter 1 and special guests are free.

NAME _____ **Chapter 1 Member** ___ **Non-Member Vet** ___ **General Public** ___

Cost based on above: SELF ___ **ONE GUEST** ___ **ADDITIONAL GUESTS** ___ **TOTAL: $**_____

COMMEMORATIVE SHIRT _____ **SHIRTS @ $20 per shirt. Please specify sizes (S, M, L, XL, XXL) Your shirt will be available AT THE BANQUET. Please add $5 per shirt to have your order shipped to you.**

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ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ **E-MAIL** _____

PLEASE ENCLOSE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

PLEASE MAIL ORDER TO: VVA Chapter 1, Attn. Anniversary Banquet, 15 Wales St., Rutland, Vt. 05701

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VVA Chapter 1
15 Wales St.
Rutland, VT 05701-4026

Address Correction Requested

2/05

Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com

MARCH 2005

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING
March 9, 2005

Nine members attended.

Minutes of the Feb. 9 meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Dave Mathis reported a total of $15,308.46 in the chapter bank accounts. The report was approved.

Membership chair Dick Doyle reported by e-mail that the chapter has 126 members, including new life members Robert Lafountain and Wayne Gibson. Thanks Robert and Wayne for the ongoing support

President Andy Megrath reported on plans for the 25th Anniversary Banquet of Chapter 1 on April 16. Gov. and Mrs. Douglas plan to attend, and the governor will speak

Twenty-six new names have been qualified for addition to the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Honor Roll. They are: Richard Aines of Rutland, Douglas Baird of Clarendon, Ronald Browe of Pittsford, Kenneth Bushee of Danby, John Coburn of Middletown Springs, David Dean of Brandon, Robert Dean of Brandon, Byron Dunham of Castleton, Stephen Galvin of Castleton, Samuel Hayward III of Rutland, Raymond Hickey of Proctor, Paul Jarvis of Danby, Robert Lubinsky of Rutland, William Mangan of Rutland, Gerald Mason of Pawlet, Ernest Monroe of Wells, John O'Brien of Rutland, Stephen Petty of Brandon, Bruce Pratico of Rutland, Stephen Shortsleeves of Pittsford, David Snow of Rutland, Lon Socia of Rutland, John Spencer of Rutland, Russell Stiles of Fair Haven, Paul Thomas of Benson, and Stephen Walbridge of Rutland. Andy Megrath and Jim Dorsey have reviewed the names to verify qualification. The new honor roll will be displayed at the banquet.

Members Mike Brown and Andy Moschetto, both unable to attend the banquet, have sent contributions to pay for tickets for others who might not be able to attend. Heather Hinckley, wife of a Vermont National Guard soldier deployed in the Mideast, another guard wife of a deployed soldier and residents of the Dodge House for homeless veterans will be invited, thanks to these generous donations.

Attendance at the banquet currently stands at about 50.

Larry Young moved that a $200 contribution originally voted for Operation Kindness, connected with the Vermont Army National Guard Family Readiness Office at Camp Johnson, Vt., be redirected to the Vermont Military Family Assistance Fund. The reason for the shift is that Operation Kindness deals with donated items for families, while the Family Assistance Fund, which is also at Camp Johnson, deals in cash. Motion seconded by Jim Dorsey. Passed unanimously.

motorcycle run will be held July 30 in connection with Bennington VVA Chapter 601's hosting the visit of the Moving Wall. The motorcycle run will be July 30. For further information, contact John Miner, president of Chapter 601, at 447-6544 or jminer@vvh.state.vt.us.

In February, the chapter tapped into the $500 assistance fund for providing help on short notice to families of deployed soldiers. The chapter paid a $381 electric bill for a family. The referral came from Heather Hinckley, Family Readiness volunteer for National Guard members deployed from Rutland's 2nd Battalion, 172nd Armor.

The following change in the chapter by-laws is proposed for action at the April 13 meeting.

Article III currently states:

The principal offices of Chapter #1 shall be located at the residence of the presiding officer, or at any other location the Board of Directors deem necessary, with the mailing address: Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. Chapter #1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702-6301.

The proposed new wording is:

The offices and mailing address for Chapter 1 shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Note: Election of officers is scheduled for April. Anyone interested in serving as an officer or on the board should make their wishes known. Write the chapter or contact Andy Megrath at vthogman@adelphia.net or (802) 775-1745.

Next meeting is Wednesday, ~~March 9~~ April 13, at 6 p.m. at the chapter office at the VFW in Rutland.

REPORT OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET PLANNING COMMITTEE
March 9, 2005

A brief planning committee meeting was held following the regular chapter meeting.

Larry Young has secured a dozen disposable cameras for recording the banquet. Larry and Bub Crosby will secure raffle items.

Dick Doyle announces LAST CALL for members to send in photos from military days for display at the banquet. Please send photos to Dick at 35 Old Terrace St., Bellows Falls, VT 05101 or e-mail the photo to rpdoyle@adelphia.net.

The committee will meet again March 30 to make final arrangements for the banquet. The meeting will take place at 6 p.m. at the chapter office at 15 Wales St.

The following products will be available for preorder, with a limited number available at the banquet. In addition, anniversary logo patches will be on sale at the banquet. Aside from preorders, only a handfull of shirts and hats will be purchased for sale or presentation. Logos for the shirt and hat are visible on our Web site, www.vvachapter1.com.

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ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

PLEASE ENCLOSE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

PLEASE MAIL ORDER TO: VVA Chapter 1, Attn. Anniversary Banquet, 15 Wales St., Rutland, Vt. 05701

- -

VVA Chapter 1
15 Wales St.
Rutland, VT 05701-4026

Address Correction Requested

3/05

Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com

APRIL 13, 2005

MINUTES OF CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING
April 13, 2005

Eight members attended.

Minutes of the March 9 meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Dave Mathis reported a total of $16,069.94 in the chapter bank accounts. The report was approved.

Membership chair Dick Doyle reported by e-mail that the chapter has 126 members, including 60 life members.

President Andy Megrath read a letter from Bill West, parade chairman, inviting the chapter to participate in the Manchester Loyalty Day Parade May 15. Richard Tucker, director of the Boys & Girls Club of Rutland County, wrote us a letter of appreciation for support of the club. The chapter recently contributed $500 to the club.

R.D., a Chapter 1 member to whom we provided emergency assistance last fall, has repaid the $150 with his thanks.

Jack Crowther moved that the change in the chapter bylaws published in the March newsletter be approved. Seconded by Larry Young. The motion passed unanimously. The new Article III states:

The offices and mailing address for Chapter 1 shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Previously, the bylaw said the offices were at the home of the presiding officer or other location chosen by the board; the mailing address in the former bylaw was the chapter's post office box, now eliminated. The chapter currently receives mail at the VFW street address, 15 Wales St., in Rutland.

Fred Hellmuth moved that the chapter elect the following slate of officers: president, Andy Megrath; vice president, Larry Young; treasurer, Dave Mathis; secretary, Jack Crowther; and board members Dick Doyle, Bill Whitney, Bub Crosby, Fred Hellmuth and Mike Divoll. Seconded by Bub Crosby. Motion passed unanimously.

State Council President John Miner has secured the chapter a piece of the granite used to make The Wall, the Vietnam War memorial in Washington, D.C.

Steve Faye reported on a recent State House meeting with Rep. Bernie Sanders. Steve encouraged everyone to write their representatives in Congress to oppose President Bush's budget for the Veterans Administration hospitals. According to information presented, another $3 billion is needed to adequately fund the program.

The group adjourned to wrap up preparations for the 25th Anniversary Banquet. Attendance for the banquet at last count was 90.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 11, at 6 p.m. at the chapter offices at the VFW, 15 Wales St., Rutland.

Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com

MAY 11, 2005

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING
May 11, 2005

Seven members attended.

Minutes of the April 13 meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Dave Mathis reported a total of $14,092.05 in the chapter bank accounts. The major bills for the 25th Anniversary Banquet have been paid. The report was approved.

Fred Hellmuth thanked the Banquet Planning Committee for their efforts, particularly President Andy Megrath and Secretary Jack Crowther.

Those present expressed satisfaction with the banquet and reported positive comments from those attending. Notable among attendees was Doug Bailey Jr., who rode up the day of the banquet, April 16, from Connecticut on a 600 Honda motorcycle and rode home afterwards.

New members of the chapter include Wally Pratt, Norman Sevigny and Leo Bathalon.

Veterans needing help with VA benefits can contact Veterans Service Officer Richard Reed by any of the following means: State of Vermont Veterans Affairs, 118 State St., Drawer 20, Montpelier, VT 05620; (888) 666-9844 (toll-free in Vermont), (802) 828-3379, (802) 224-6080 (cell phone); e-mail RReed@va.state.vt.us. The Web site is www.va.state.vt.us.

Andy Megrath has received three new names for the Honor Roll at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

In response to a suggestion, Andy has done some checking on stickers and decals for car windows. Prices range from about $3 to $5 apiece based on a minimum order of 100. He'll do some more checking on prices. **Members, is this something you'd like to have? Drop Andy an e-mail (vthogman@adelphia.net) or a note at the address on the other side of the newsletter if you would.** Styles vary from the vinyl cling-type to paper versions with adhesive.

President Andy Megrath read a letter from John Waite Sr. of Jacksonville, Fla., a retired Navy man and Vietnam-era veteran. Born and raised in Rutland, he thanked members for their service. His brother, the late Carroll Waite, was a member of Chapter 1. His brother-in-law is Ed Grabowski, and his sister's son, Mike Murphy, are members of Chapter 1. Andy noted that people are using the chapter's Web site to contact us.

Bob Lefter of the Dodge House for homeless veterans in Rutland thanked the chapter for inviting residents to attend the 25th Anniversary Banquet, calling it a "great experience."

Bob Lefter sent a second letter requesting that the chapter sponsor a golf hole for $300 in the Sons of the American Legion of Detachment of Vermont 6th Annual Golf Classic. Dick Doyle moved we sponsor the hole. Seconded by Steve Faye. Passed unanimously.

Don Amorosi wrote the chapter a letter thanking Chapter One for support over the years for the Northeast POW-MIA Network and for the anniversary banquet, also noting the enjoyment of the banquet by Gold Star Mother Olive Pettis of Castleton. She is the mother of the late Steven Pettis.

Andy Megrath called attention to the Rutland County Days of Hope May 20, 21 and 22. It is a series of events including a parade, blood drive, Nextel Cup show car, clothing and food collection and other activities in support of families of guardsmen from the 2nd Battalion, 172nd Armor.

Fred Helmuth reported raising $165 from the sale of memorabilia from the chapter's collection. He and his wife, Chris, staffed a table at the banquet to dispose of the items, which had been sitting in storage for a number of years. A number of World War II and Korean War items remain.

Larry Young moved that the chapter allocate another $500 for emergency assistance to families of deployed guardsmen and reservists. Seconded by Fred Hellmuth. The chapter's most recent payments were two checks of $316.21 and $270 for a car payment for the wife of a deployed vet. The only other payment has been a $381 payment of an electric bill, again for the family of a deployed soldier. The emergency payment requires the approval of the president or vice president and one other officer.

The Chapter One members listed below have sent in their e-mail addresses to share with other members. Anyone who would like to add their name to the list can simply e-mail Dick Doyle, who is maintaining the list. Dick's e-mail is in the list below.

Personal email addresses concealed

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 8, at 6 p.m. at the chapter offices at the VFW, 15 Wales St., Rutland.

VVA Chapter 1
15 Wales St.
Rutland, VT 05701-4026

Address Correction Requested

5/05

Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com

JUNE 8, 2005

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING
June 8, 2005

Six members attended.

Chaplain Bub Crosby led a prayer in remembrance of Howard Cobb who died May 20. Howard served in Vietnam as a Navy helicopter pilot flying rescue missions off an aircraft carrier. President Andy Megrath read a letter from Douglas Cobb, Howard's son, noting his father's pride in his Vietnam service and membership in Chapter 1. He expressed thanks from his brother, David and Howard's wife, Martha.

Minutes of the May 11 meeting were approved unanimously as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Dave Mathis reported a total of $13,311.45 in the chapter bank accounts. Charter 1 Bank , where the funds were, has become Citizens Bank. The report was approved unanimously.

State Council President John Miner reported that Buster Holcomb had been released from the hospital and would like to hear from anyone. Buster's telephone number in Chester is 886-4357.

The Veterans Home picnic in Bennington will be July 23. VVA members from around the state serve the vets in the home a picnic lunch.

Brandon invited the chapter to participate in its Independence Day celebration July 2. However, the chapter hasn't had a color guard for several years.

Andy Megrath suggested that the chapter could use the VFW kitchen to hold fund-raising breakfasts. Andy has often cooked for the VFW breakfasts. He will look into any restrictions on publicizing the breakfasts that relate to the VFW's operation of a bar in space adjacent to the dining area. Nevertheless, the VFW has drawn some good attendance through word-of-mouth advertising. The breakfasts can raise as much as $250.

Tom Reardon, formerly active in Chapter 1 as head of the color guard and in other capacities, has been in touch with Andy Megrath and is living in Indiana.

Jack Crowther suggested a work party would be a good idea to spruce up the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Main Street Park. He noted the site could use some weeding and that a couple of the marble benches were stained from tree deposits. Andy Megrath will check with the Garden Club to see what that group may be planning. He'll also check with John Socinski on how to clean the marble benches.

Andy reported that he will be providing $370.20 to Heather Hinckley for postage for packages sent to Vermont National Guard members deployed in the Middle East. Heather is the family readiness volunteer for those deployed, and Chapter 1 has provided assistance to family members previously. The postage money comes from the chapter's emergency fund for assisting families of those deployed. The approval of two officers is required to dispense the funds.

Jack Crowther moved to recharge the fund with $370.20, so that the fund will again have $500 available. Seconded by Steve Faye. Approved unanimously.

Steve Faye reported that the VA Vet Center in White River Junction is offering noon cookouts on the second Friday of

the month. The center is separate from the VA facility but nearby. The cookouts begin about noon.

The Chapter One members listed below have sent in their e-mail addresses to share with other members. Anyone who would like to add their name to the list can simply e-mail Dick Doyle, who is maintaining the list. Dick's e-mail is in the list below.

Personal email addresses concealed

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VVA Chapter 1
15 Wales St.
Rutland, VT 05701-4026

Address Correction Requested

6/05

Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com

JULY 13, 2005

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING
July 13, 2005

Seven members attended

Minutes of the June 8 meeting and Treasurer Dave Mathis's report were approved without dissent on a single motion. There is $14,262.34 in the treasury.

Chapter 1 welcomes new members Tim Lonergan of Middletown Springs and Robert Ramunto of Wallingford to the organization.

President Andy Megrath suggests members write to the VVA Veteran, the national publication of VVA and express disappointment at the fairly small notice given to VVA's 25th Anniversary banquet. The magazine printed two photos and three paragraphs, though a detailed article was sent in. Meanwhile, Chapter Nine in Detroit received a two-page spread.

anet Bishop of the Vermont Military Family Assistance Fund sent the chapter a thank-you for the $400 donation to the fund, which supports families of deployed service men and women.

Andy circulated a letter from Tom Reardon, now living in Middlebury, Ind. In the absence of a local VVA chapter, Tom is active in the American Legion and its color guard. Tom headed the Chapter 1 color guard for a number of years. He reports the Chapter 1 insignia prompts interest at veterans events. He attends the Vietnam Veterans reunion in Kokomo, Ind., every September. Tom said it is a week-long event that "is getting bigger every year."

The Chapter One members listed below have sent in their e-mail addresses to share with other members. Anyone who would like to add their name to the list can simply e-mail Dick Doyle, who is maintaining the list. Dick's e-mail is in the list below.

Personal email addresses concealed

Personal email addresses concealed

The chapter will skip the August meeting due to the slow pace of activities and vacations . The next meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 14, at 6 p.m. at the chapter offices at the VFW, 15 Wales St., Rutland.

VVA Chapter 1
15 Wales St.
Rutland, VT 05701-4026

Address Correction Requested

7/05

Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com

SEPTEMBER 2005

NOTICE OF CHAPTER MEETING FOR OCTOBER

The next meeting of Chapter One meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 6 p.m. at the chapter offices at the VFW, 15 Wales St., Rutland.

Our apologies for not getting out the July newsletter in a timely manner. A few members who were not aware that we had planned to forego the August meeting showed up. Enclosed with this notice is the July newsletter.

The September meeting, lacking a couple of our regulars (for legitimate reasons) drew a negligible turnout and no formal meeting was held. We hope to get back on track at the October meeting noticed above!

Membership chairman Dick Doyle reports by e-mail that membership stands at 134.

In the meantime, we reprint the list of Chapter One members who have sent in their e-mail addresses to share with other members. Anyone who would like to add their name to the list can simply e-mail Dick Doyle, who is maintaining the list. Dick's e-mail is in the list below.

Personal email addresses concealed

Submitted by,

Jack Crowther, Secretary

Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com

OCTOBER 2005

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING
Oct. 12, 2005

Chapter 1 welcomes Lt. Col. Mark Truhan back from Iraq. An Army reservist, Mark is a charter member of Chapter 1 and was its third president. He was called up about a year ago and has been training officers of the Iraqi army. He is currently on leave and due to be released from active duty in November. Dick Doyle reports Mark is doing well and glad to be home.

Seven members were present at the Oct. 12 meeting, including Gary Swisher of Chester, a new face.

The minutes of the June and July meetings were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Dave Mathis reported a balance of $15,915.41 in the chapter's two accounts. The report was approved unanimously.

The chapter has four new names and one address correction for the Honor Roll at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Rutland. The group decided to wait until spring to make a further update. Jack Crowther suggested that the opportunity to have a name added be publicized prior to the update in the spring. The last update occurred April 17, the day after the chapter's 25th Aniversary Banquet. Twenty-six names were added to the list of those from Rutland County who served in the war, bringing the total to 270, in addition to the names of 18 soldiers from the county killed in action.

We discussed the purchase of stickers with the chapter's logo. These are of the stick-on or vinyl-cling types. For 250, the cost for the five-color logo would be about $2 apiece, with the price declining with larger orders. Andy will bring in some samples.

Jack Crowther moved to donate $100 to the Green Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts, which sent a fund-raising letter. Seconded by Dick Doyle. Approved unanimously.

Bub Crosby noted that the scouts will sponsor a veterans parade Nov. 5 in Vergennes, with 20 bands expected to participate.

President Andy Megrath read a letter from Bill Orr, commander of Gould/Holton Memorial Chapter 614, Military Order of the Purple Heart, whose membership is made up of wounded veterans. Orr said the chapter's funds go to veterans programs and to help veterans directly. He invited contributions and asked that any Purple Heart recipients wishing to join contact the chapter. Write to Bill Orr, 620 West Milton Rd., Milton, VT 05468; telephone (802) 893-1738; or e-mail gaborr@sover.net.

Adirondack Chapter 79 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Group will hold a rededication ceremony marking its 20th anniversary. The event will be Saturday, Nov. 5, at 1 p.m., rain or shine, at Adirondack Community College on Bay Road in Queensbury, N.Y., the site of the memorial.

The Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation sent the chapter a request for support. Jack Crowther moved to donate $25. Seconded by Bub Crosby. Passed unanimously.

Dick Doyle reported chapter membership at 133, plus three associate members. Andy Moschetto of Delray Beach, Fla., is our newest life member, bringing our total of life members to 63.

Mary S. King of Bennington has written a book, Facing the Wall: A Mission, about the effects of her husband's Vietnam service in the Marines on their life together. The book is available at Amazon.com, Borders.com and Barnesandnoble.com, or through local bookstores.

Personal email addresses concealed

Submitted by,

Jack Crowther, Secretary

The next meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 9, at 6 p.m. at the chapter offices at the VFW, 15 Wales St., Rutland.

VVA Chapter 1
15 Wales St.
Rutland, VT 05701-4026

Address Correction Requested

10/05

Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com

NOVEMBER 2005

REPORT OF CHAPTER MEETING
Nov. 9, 2005

On a beastly night for weather, four members attended. Therefore no formal business was transacted.

Longtime Chapter 1 member and perennial membership chairman Dick Doyle was on hand in Montpelier in October for the presentation of the Richard P. Doyle Award for Outstanding DVOP/LVER. Named after Dick, the award honors a Disabled Veterans Outreach Person or Local Veterans Employment Representative. Now retired, Dick spent 32 years as a local veterans employment representative, working mostly in Springfield.

The Doyle Award winner is Steve Brochu, who works with veterans in the White River Junction, Barre-Montpelier and St. Johnsbury areas. Chapter 1 contratulates both Dick and Steve for their dedicated service to veterans.

Gary Swisher displayed samples of a round window sticker of the Chapter 1 logo, which a printer provided him. Cost would be a bit under $2 per sticker for a minimum order of 250. President Andy Megrath has been looking into the options for a Chapter 1 sticker.

Dick Doyle reported membership at 134 regular members, plus three associate members.

Secretary Jack Crowther will present some banjo-accompanied folksongs with a military theme at the next meeting.

The Chapter One members listed below have sent in their e-mail addresses to share with other members. Anyone who would like to add their name to the list can simply e-mail Dick Doyle, who is maintaining the list. Dick's e-mail is in the list below. The names in **boldface** are new additions or have new e-mail addresses.

Personal email addresses concealed

Personal email addresses concealed

Submitted by,

Jack Crowther, Secretary

The next meeting will be Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m. at the chapter offices at the VFW, 15 Wales St., Rutland.

VVA Chapter 1
15 Wales St.
Rutland, VT 05701-4026

Address Correction Requested

11/05

Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com

DECEMBER 2005

REPORT OF CHAPTER MEETING
Dec. 14, 2005

Only four members attended, so the meeting was held informally.

A moment of silence was observed for Robert Maranville of Rutland Town, a chapter member and Navy veteran who died Dec. 12.

Treasurer Dave Mathis reported $15,362.25 in the chapter's bank accounts.

President Andy Megrath said membership stands at 134 regular members and three associate members, with 64 lifetime members.

John Lloyd of Barre, retired from the Air Force, is planning to join the chapter.

The Dodge House for homeless veterans in Rutland will hold a candlelight vigil Dec. 21 at 5 p.m. The chapter has regularly contributed to support of the Dodge House.

Chapter member Randall Docksteader of Naalehu, Hawaii, wrote to recommend the following Web sites for their information on medical issues: www.gojibook.com, www.gojihealthstories.com, and www.hawaiiroyal.gojiteam.com. A quick check shows the sites have to do with the Himalayan goji berry, touted as an anti-aging supplement. Randall is involved in the promotion of this product, and his name is prominent on the third of the Web sites listed above.

Tom Donahue, executive vice president and CEO of the Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce is reported to have expressed interest in bringing the Traveling Wall — a movable representation of The Wall memorializing Vietnam War dead in Washington, D.C. — to Rutland. The traveling exhibit visited Rutland in 1991 and was in Bennington this past year. There is a cost and required lead time for this, as well as the volunteer support needed for a public event of this type. Anyone interested in spearheading or helping with an effort to bring the Traveling Wall to Rutland should get in touch with President Andy Megrath at the address on this newsletter or in the list of e-mail addresses below.

The meeting concluded with a couple of songs sung by Jack Crowther with banjo accompaniment.

The Chapter One members listed below have sent in their e-mail addresses to share with other members. Anyone who would like to add their name to the list can simply e-mail Dick Doyle, who is maintaining the list. Dick's e-mail is in the list below. The names in **boldface** are new additions or have new e-mail addresses.

Personal email addresses concealed

Personal email addresses concealed

Submitted by,

Jack Crowther, Secretary

The next meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 6 p.m. at the chapter offices at the VFW, 15 Wales St., Rutland. In the meantime,

A Safe and Happy Holiday Season to All

VVA Chapter 1
15 Wales St.
Rutland, VT 05701-4026

Address Correction Requested

12/05